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AKTIVITÄT

KRAFTWERK FANZINE

This document contains the scanned pages of one of the Kraftwerk Aktivität Fanzines or complimentary publications that were produced from 1992 through to 1998.

During this time 10 Fanzines were published along with various update issues and other complimentary publications.

The scans have only been altered for clarity, with the exception of addresses and phone numbers that have now been blocked out. So please note that all errors and miss-information are as they appeared at the time of publication. Later issues tried to address the earlier problems as the production team put more stringent editorial practices in place.

TOPICS AT A GLANCE;

- 'DANCING IN THE STREET' VIDEO RELEASE
- KARL BARTOS/OMD/ELECTRONIC RELEASES
- WOLFGANG FLÜR/EXXCELSIOR RELEASE
- NEU! '72 LIVE IN DÜSSELDORF

Greetings,

And welcome to the first of the news sheets in the Aktivität Update subscription. Issue 8 of Aktivität appeared at the end of August. If you are subscribed to receive the fanzine and have not received your copy as yet, please get in touch as there is obviously a problem. Now, for the news...

COMPUTER WORLD JAPANESE CD RE-ISSUE

The initial intention was to include comprehensive details about this release within this news-sheet, and I've hung on for a while waiting for this CDs appearance before mailing out this Update, but as of this moment the CD has still not appeared, if in fact it does - let's not forget that there have been previous Kraftwerk and Elektrik Music CD releases announced but never released in recent years. I hope for this CD to be reviewed in the next news sheet, or whenever copies do finally appear.

'DANCING IN THE STREET' VIDEO RELEASE

The BBC television series chronicling the history of rock, 'Dancing In The Street', covered Kraftwerk, briefly, in the final episode in the series, 'Planet Rock', shown on 17th August 1996. Footage of Kraftwerk shown is a live rendition of 'Autobahn' (the same as shown on the 'Rock 'n' Roll Years' and 'Sounds Of The 70s' UK series and originally from 'Tomorrow's World', but edited even further on this occasion). There are also interviews with Afrika Bambaataa, Grandmaster Flash where the KW influence is acknowledged, and Bambaataa's 'Planet Rock' (based largely on 'TEE') is also shown. Peter Hook, bass guitarist with New Order, recounts a little tale of how Kraftwerk were horrified by the antiquated mixing desk to be found at Britannia Row studios (in London), the very same one New Order had used for recording 'Blue Monday' - apparently KW had hoped to recreate their own 'Blue Monday' inspired piece and, it seems, decided to go as far as using the same studio!!! The programme also takes in the rap/hip hop, techno and ambient movements, interview material with Public Enemy, De La Soul, Beastie Boys, Derrick May and The Orb. 'Dancing In The Street' is a joint venture between the British BBC channel and the US WGBH Boston station and had in fact already been aired on US and other screens earlier this year.

The series is available to buy on commercially released video in the UK, including the 'Planet Rock' edition. On the BBC label, the cat. no. for this particular video is BBCV5899. Retail, at Virgin Megastores anyway, at £12.99. The version released on video is marginally different, due to

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copyright reasons, to the broadcast edition. Having scrutinised the copy of this video that I bought, there are indeed some differences, though I'm happy to say that the Kraftwerk clip survives intact as well as the quotes from the likes of Afrika Bambaataa, Grandmaster Flash and Peter Hook. In fact, as well as Peter Hook there is also an extra interview snippet with Bernard Sumner of New Order speaking of the influence KW had on Joy Division and even extra footage of Joy Division, performing 'She's Lost Control' on the BBC2 'Something Else' programme on the video release. From what I can tell it seems to be little snippets of MTV footage and a Madonna video that have been cut from the broadcast version.

Of note; the clip of KW performing 'Autobahn' is sadly not as long as the one aired previously on 'Sounds Of the Eighties' - as well as being cut into two portions it ends a little too early, depriving us of Florian's somewhat memorable smile to the camera!

KARL BARTOS / OMD / ELECTRONIC

As mentioned in issue 8 of Aktivität, Karl Bartos has co-written one of the songs on OMDs new album, 'Universal' (Virgin, CDV2807). Well, this album has now appeared and in fact there is also a track on the first single from the album ('Walking On The Milky Way' - CD1, Virgin VSCDT1599) that Bartos has co-written with OMDs Andy McCluskey. The OMD album is much more rock-based in many places than you might expect from OMD, heavy on the traditional instrumentation and arrangements, somewhat light on the more electronic tendencies of previous efforts. This extends to the track co-written with Karl Bartos, 'The Moon and The Sun', which is heavy on the acoustic guitars, slide guitars, string samples etc and is quite a traditional sounding piece. The track co-written on the single, 'Mathew Street', is an unashamed psychedelic-era Beatles pastiche, from the piano chords, cello samples and even sitar of its instrumentation. Bartos is not credited amongst the musicians on the records, only co-writing the songs.

The new Electronic single, 'For You', was released in the UK on 16 September. This is a 2CD set, CD1 features a previously unreleased track co-written by Electronic and Karl Bartos, called 'I Feel Alright', while 'For You' is of course one of the albums songs co-written with Bartos.

The new issue of 'Future Music' magazine (Issue 48, October 1996) has features on both OMD and Electronic and, with the recent Bartos contributions to both parties, portions are devoted to Bartos. In fact, there is some new words from the man himself; asked 'What is next for Karl Bartos?' Karl opines the following; *"I've just started the next Elektric Music album ... I've just written the tracks and it is similar to the stuff that is on the Electronic album: more pop than intelligent overdrive! It feels happy!"* Certainly worth a further look if you've some time to spare while in WH Smiths - pages 70 and 76 are what you'll be looking for!

The September issue of the German 'New Life' magazine also carries a small report stating that a new album from Karl Bartos is anticipated for a Spring 1997 release on the German label SPV, but it has not been decided whether this will be released under the Elektric Music name or not.

Not quite sure how recent the release was, but a German 2-CD compilation "Alles Prima! NDW" (Polyphon 515 284-2) contains one of the three remixes of the Rheingold track 'Dreiklangsdimensionen' (the 3.47 single edit), Lothar Manteuffel's previous band. It has previously been stated in an earlier issue of Aktivität (issue 3) that this remix was done by Karl Bartos and Lothar Manteuffel of Elektric Music, though it must be noted that the CD single cover of the 1990 remix single release does not actually give such credits, so it's perhaps a little vague. It's a pretty good track nonetheless.

WOLFGANG FLÜR/YAMO

It is now known that Wolfgang Flür has signed a deal with EMI records for his Yamo releases, further reported in the German music press is that his forthcoming release will be remixed by Joerg Burger aka *Bionaut*. Most recently, Flür has been involved with a band called Exxcelsior, whose first CD-single, 'Waiting', has recently been issued in Germany (EMI 7243 8 82941 2 6). Flür is co-credited with the songs composition, lyrics and 'spoken words'. Four mixes of the track are on the CD single, the music being described as being in a familiar pop mould.

NEU! '72 LIVE IN DÜSSELDORF

Mentioned only very briefly in issue 8, I can now fill in the details re this latest NEU! item. Released on the Japanese label Captain Trip Records (CTCD-045 / NEU! 1,000-5) this CD features a low-fi cassette recording of a 1972 NEU! rehearsal session. There are three tracks listed on the packaging ('6 May 72' (Part 1), 'Silence' and '6 May 72' (Part 2)) though as this is an actual rehearsal recording the pieces are improvisational jams, so tend to start and stop on occasion. Just under an hour in duration, the material is described in the accompanying sleeve notes from Klaus Dinger thus;

'From the KD-historic tapes-collection this is NEU! '72 live in Düsseldorf 6 May. At Congregation-Hall of St. Maria Unter dem Kreuz (Tanx) in Düsseldorf-Unterrath as non-public test/self-audition with Eberhard Kranemann for a series of 6/7 concerts later in '72.'

So, it is not actually a concert recording, it's a rehearsal - so be prepared for lulls between tracks and the like. Musically, it's certainly in the NEU! style and similar to the well-circulated 1971

Kraftwerk live in Köln recording featuring Dinger and Rother - if you liked that then you'll want to investigate this too - of guitar/bass/drums driven rock improvisations. The sound quality is basic, though as listenable as many bootlegs. As a 'beat the bootleggers' attempt it is to be applauded but at the rather high prices it sells for on import I can only emphasise that you should try and give it a listen first if your tempted to investigate further. If your looking for it it should be easy to spot in the CD racks - an atypical NEU! design, the luminous pink and yellow colours make it easy to spot, no problem. □

Summarised by Ian Calder, September 1996
With thanks to Klaus Zäpke.

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AKTIVITÄT,